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SCUZZ OUT!

RYAN '86

ONCE THEY WERE NORMAL. NOW THEY ARE **PARANORMAL.** ONCE THEY FIT IN. NOW THEY ARE **DIS-PLACED.** ONCE THEY WERE **ALONE** WITH THEIR PREDICAMENTS, NOW THEY HAVE **ONE ANOTHER.** ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN OVER THREE MONTHS SINCE THEIR LIVES WERE **CHANGED,** THEY HAVE NOT YET ABANDONED THE **HOPE** THAT THEIR SITUATIONS MAY IMPROVE. NOT **YET...**

D.P.7 EXORCISM

CREATED BY MARK GRUENWALD AND PAUL RYAN

CENTRAL WISCONSIN, TWENTY-SEVEN MILES FROM STEVENS POINT...

COME ON, CAROL. THAT A GIRL!

SISTER AGNES-- A **CAR'S** COMING! MAYBE THEY'LL HELP US!

HEY, **RANDY.** LOOK AROUND THE BEND.

EASY, NOW.

ARE YOU OKAY, ANDREA?

FINE PLACE FOR A **BLOW-OUT,** EH?

AT LEAST NO ONE SEEMS SERIOUSLY HURT, FATHER JOHN.

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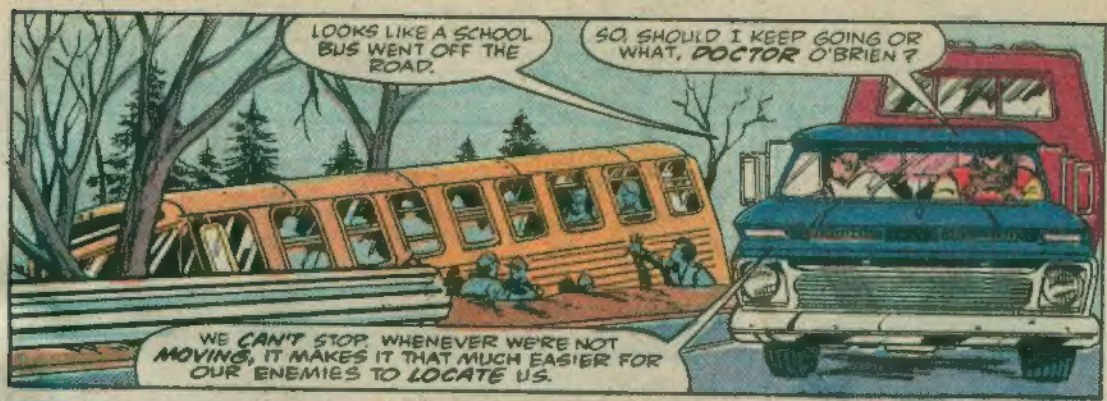
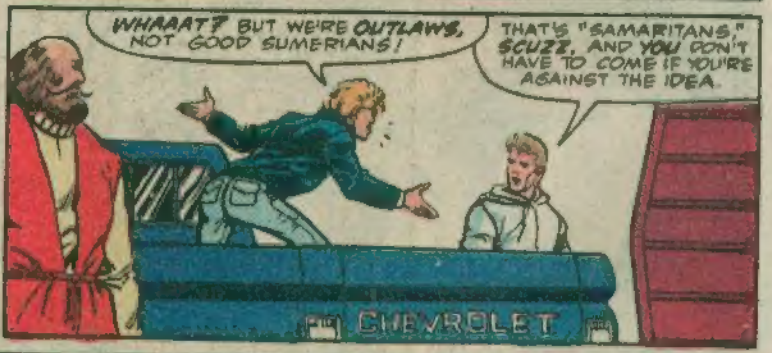
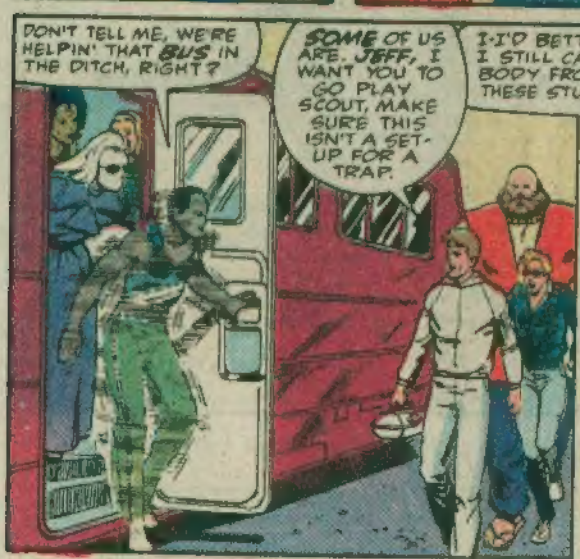
D.P. 7™ Vol. 1, No. 5, March, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President; Mike Schiffman, Vice President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1986 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues; Canada and foreign $11.00 Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL and D.P. 7 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO D.P. 7, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

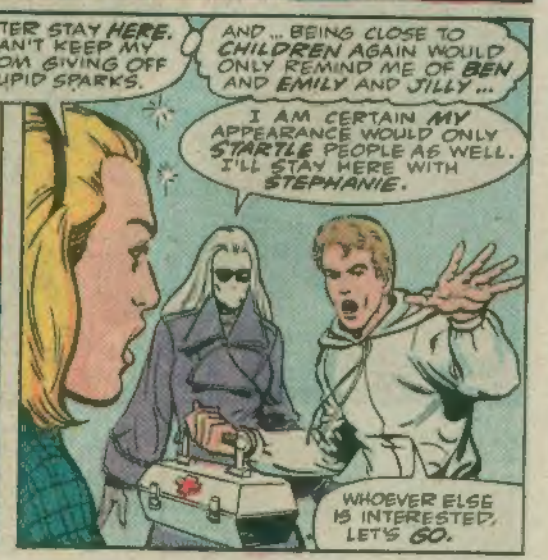

LOOKS LIKE A SCHOOL BUS WENT OFF THE ROAD.
SO, SHOULD I KEEP GOING OR WHAT, DOCTOR O'BRIEN?
WE CAN'T STOP. WHENEVER WE'RE NOT MOVING, IT MAKES IT THAT MUCH EASIER FOR OUR ENEMIES TO LOCATE US.

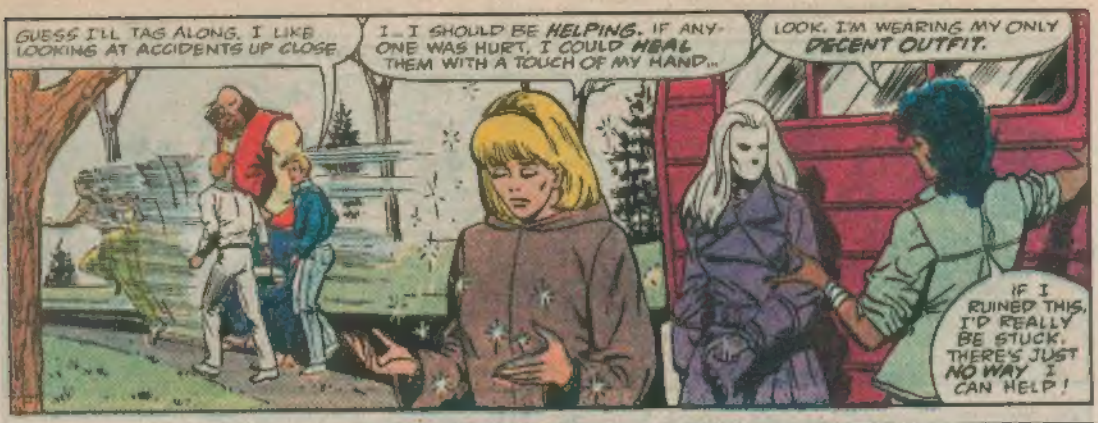
AND CONSIDERING HOW STRANGE SOME OF US LOOK--NO OFFENSE, DAVE--IT'S BEST WE KEEP AS LOW A PROFILE AS POSSIBLE. UNLESS WE WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE WEIRDOS WHO WALK AMONG THEM...
DARN IT--PULL OVER.
RIGHT.

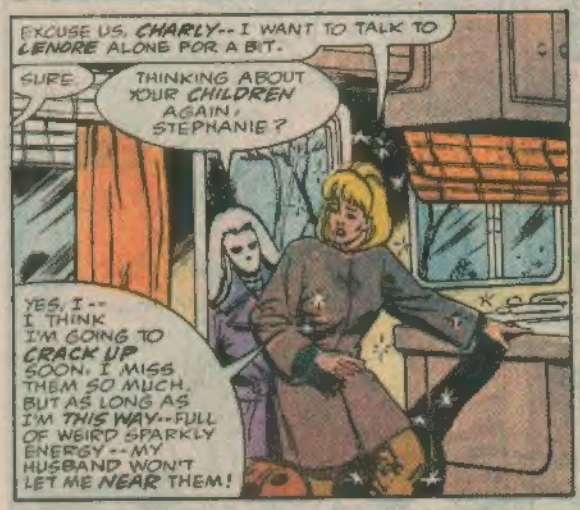
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON? WHA'D WE STOP FOR?
I THINK WE SHOULD HELP THAT BUS BACK THERE.

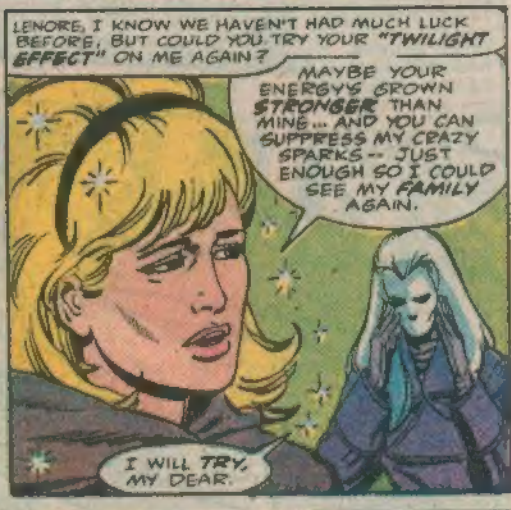

WHAAAT? BUT WE'RE OUTLAWS, NOT GOOD SUMERIANS!
THAT'S "SAMARITANS," SCUZZ, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME IF YOU'RE AGAINST THE IDEA.
CHEVROLET


DON'T TELL ME, WE'RE HELPIN' THAT BUS IN THE DITCH, RIGHT?
SOME OF US ARE. JEFF, I WANT YOU TO GO PLAY SCOUT, MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T A SET-UP FOR A TRAP.
I-I'D BETTER STAY HERE. I STILL CAN'T KEEP MY BODY FROM GIVING OFF THESE STUPID SPARKS.

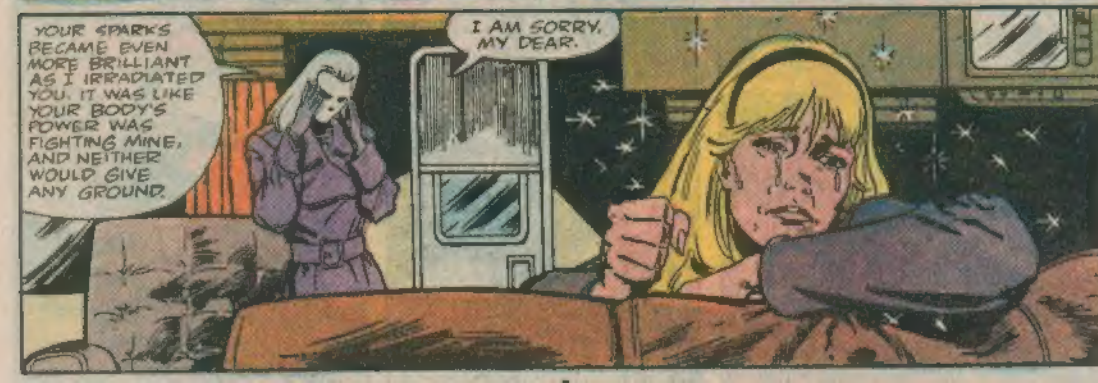

AND... BEING CLOSE TO CHILDREN AGAIN WOULD ONLY REMIND ME OF BEN AND EMILY AND JILLY...
I AM CERTAIN MY APPEARANCE WOULD ONLY STARTLE PEOPLE AS WELL. I'LL STAY HERE WITH STEPHANIE.
WHOEVER ELSE IS INTERESTED, LET'S GO.


GUESS I'LL TAG ALONG. I LIKE LOOKING AT ACCIDENTS UP CLOSE
I... I SHOULD BE HELPING. IF ANYONE WAS HURT, I COULD HEAL THEM WITH A TOUCH OF MY HAND...
LOOK. I'M WEARING MY ONLY DECENT OUTFIT.
IF I RUINED THIS, I'D REALLY BE STUCK. THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN HELP!


EXCUSE US, CHARLY-- I WANT TO TALK TO LENORE ALONE FOR A BIT.
SURE.
THINKING ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN AGAIN, STEPHANIE?
YES, I-- I THINK I'M GOING TO CRACK UP SOON. I MISS THEM SO MUCH, BUT AS LONG AS I'M THIS WAY--FULL OF WEIRD SPARKLY ENERGY--MY HUSBAND WON'T LET ME NEAR THEM!


LENORE, I KNOW WE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK BEFORE, BUT COULD YOU TRY YOUR "TWILIGHT EFFECT" ON ME AGAIN?
MAYBE YOUR ENERGY'S GROWN STRONGER THAN MINE... AND YOU CAN SUPPRESS MY CRAZY SPARKS-- JUST ENOUGH SO I COULD SEE MY FAMILY AGAIN.
I WILL TRY, MY DEAR.

DO YOU... FEEL ANYTHING?
I... I DON'T KNOW-- YES. I FEEL MY HEART BEATING FASTER-- LIKE I'M RUNNING UP A HILL. I--IT'S NOT WORKING, IS IT?


YOUR SPARKS BECAME EVEN MORE BRILLIANT AS I IRRADIATED YOU. IT WAS LIKE YOUR BODY'S POWER WAS FIGHTING MINE, AND NEITHER WOULD GIVE ANY GROUND.
I AM SORRY, MY DEAR.

HI, THERE! I'M A DOCTOR. NEED ANY HELP?
YOU GOING TO HELP, SCUZZ?
AAH, GOT NOTHIN' BETTER TO DO.
WHA—? MUST BE FROM THAT TRUCK THAT PASSED BY.

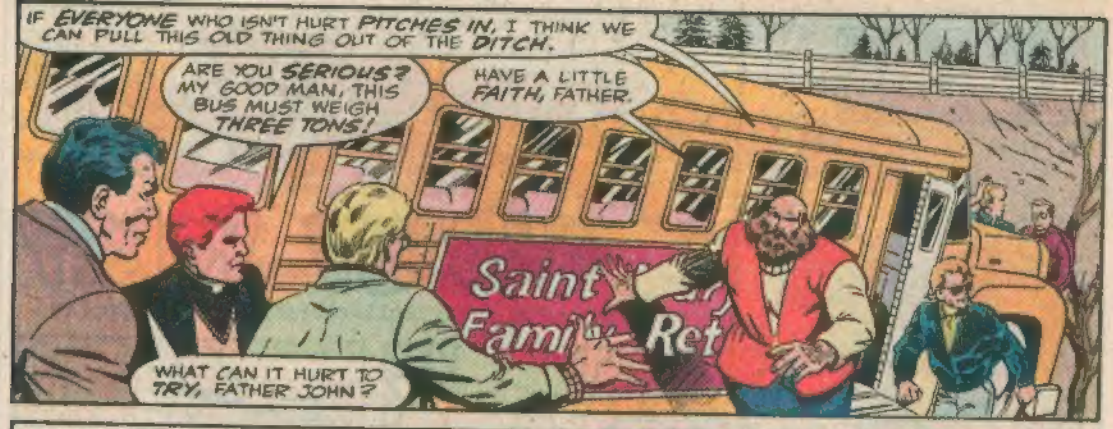
OH, DOCTOR-- THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE. I THINK ANDREA HAS BROKEN HER HAND!
LET ME HAVE A LOOK, SISTER.

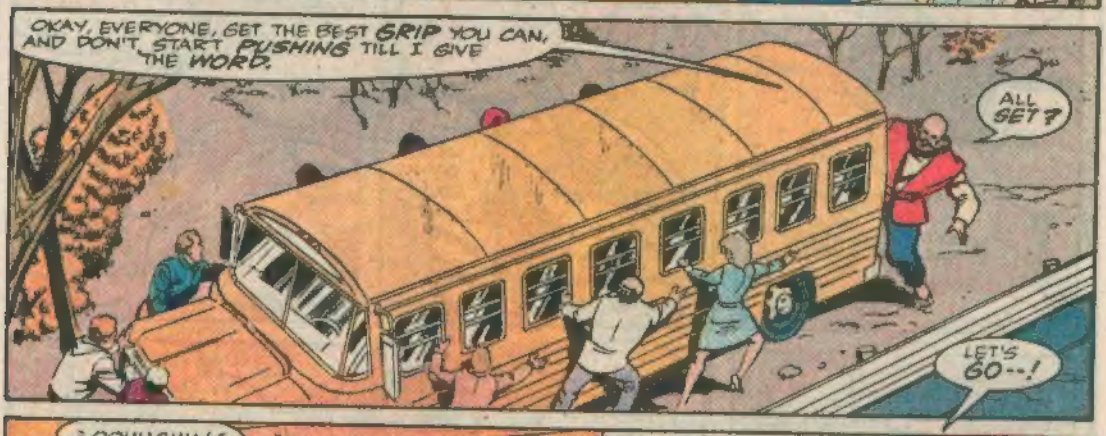
YOU'RE LUCKY, YOUNG LADY. IT'S JUST A SPRAIN. TELL ME IF THIS IS TOO TIGHT.
OKAY. UM, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CALL ME DOCTOR RANDY.
I CAN'T LIE TO A KID.

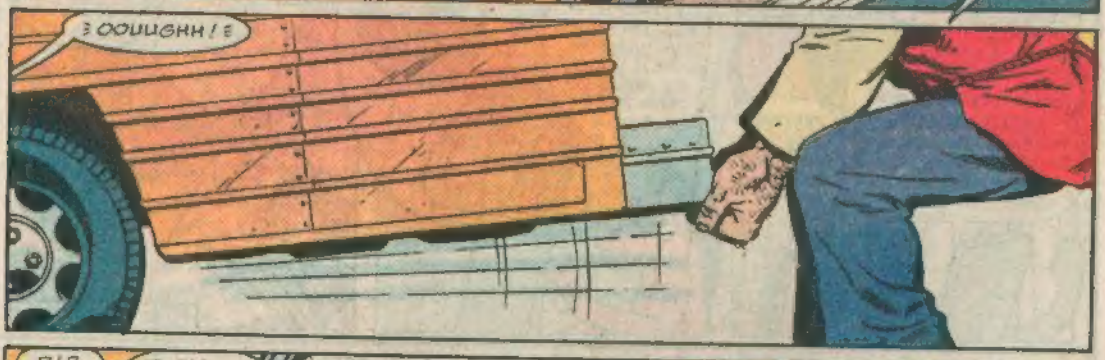
YOU SURE ARE A BIG FELLA. HOW TALL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
SIX FOOT 'LEVEN.
HEY, MISTER. STEP ASIDE AND LET ME AND MY FRIEND AT IT.
YOU OUGHTA BE A WRESTLER.
HUH? WELL, GO AHEAD. IT'S WEDGED PRETTY TIGHT. WE COULDN'T BUDGE IT.

OH, YEAH? HMH, YOU MUSTA MISSED THIS. THERE'S ONE PART THAT ALMOST ROTTED CLEAR THROUGH!
HEY, MASTODON-- GIVE ME A HAND, HUH?

NEXT TIME YOU'RE GOING TO DISINTEGRATE SOMETHING IN PUBLIC, LET ME KNOW SO I CAN COVER YOU.
AAH, THEY DIDN'T SEE ME.
HEAVE-HO!
KRAAK


IF EVERYONE WHO ISN'T HURT PITCHES IN, I THINK WE CAN PULL THIS OLD THING OUT OF THE DITCH.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? MY GOOD MAN, THIS BUS MUST WEIGH THREE TONS!
HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, FATHER.
WHAT CAN IT HURT TO TRY, FATHER JOHN?


OKAY, EVERYONE, GET THE BEST GRIP YOU CAN, AND DON'T START PUSHING TILL I GIVE THE WORD.
ALL SET?
LET'S GO--!


OOUUGHH!

?!?
IT-IT'S MOVING--!
I THINK I COULD TOW THE BUS ALL BY MYSELF, BUT I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW I'M THAT STRONG.
EXIT
LIGHT-- JUST A-- LITTLE-- BIT FARTHER--!

I JUST PLAIN DON'T GET IT. NO WAY COULD WE HAVE MOVED A BUS!

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT I THANK YOU! GOD GO WITH YOU!

THAT BIG GUY MUST BE A CIRCUS STRONGMAN OR SOMETHING.

BLESS YOU.

IF YOU CAN CHANGE THE TIRE OKAY, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY. TAKE CARE!

BETTER COVER ME, WOOLLY-BULLY. I'M STARTIN' TO BURN THROUGH MY RAGS AGAIN.

YOU KNOW, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME SINCE WE WENT ON THE RUN THAT WE'VE DONE ANYTHING THAT WASN'T FOR OURSELVES.

MADE ME FEEL GOOD.

YEAH. FUNNY, WASN'T IT? ME, A GUY WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD, TELLING A PRIEST TO HAVE FAITH. BET WE HAVE SOME OF 'EM BE-LIEVING IN MIRACLES.

DOIN' GOOD DEEDS ARE FOR BOY SCOUTS, BUT I ADMIT I HAD FUN MAKIN' THOSE YO-YOS DROP THEIR JAWS. HEH HEH.

HEY, I GOT AN IDEA. LET'S GET SOME HEAVY-DUTY DISGUISES-- MASKS AN' CAPES AN' THAT-- AN' GO AROUND HELPIN' ALL THE FEEBS WHO NEED IT.

THEY'RE BACK. GUESS IT WENT OKAY.

AH, FOOEY. I WAS HOPIN' THEY'D ALL CONVERT AN' THEN IT'D JUST BE ME AN' THREE OF THE HOTTEST CHICKS IN WISCO.

UH. SCUZZ. THE REST OF US ARE ADULTS. ADULTS DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT.

YOU GUYS REALLY STINK, YOU KNOW THAT?

CHARLOTTE BECK IS NOT A CHICK, WIGGLE-WORM!

SOON...

YOU KNOW, DAVE, IT'LL BE COLD SOON. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP WITH A BETTER PLAN THAN CRUISING AIMLESSLY FROM ONE GAS STATION TO THE NEXT.

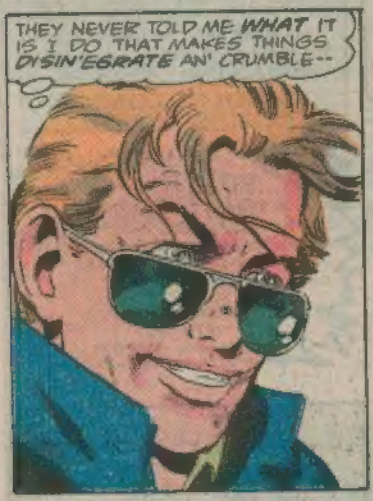
YEAH, I KNOW. BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT NONE OF THE OTHERS WANTS TO MAKE PLANS. IT'S LIKE IF WE DO, WE HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WE'RE ALL STUCK WITH EACH OTHER FOR THE LONG HAUL...

WHY I'M STILL HANGIN' AROUND WITH THESE CLOWNS I DON'T KNOW.

NO ONE EVER AGREES WITH ME. THEY TREAT ME LIKE A KID WHEN I'M AS TOUGH AS ANY ONE OF 'EM. AND WHENEVER I START EATIN' THROUGH MY CLOTHES TOO FAST-- PTUW!

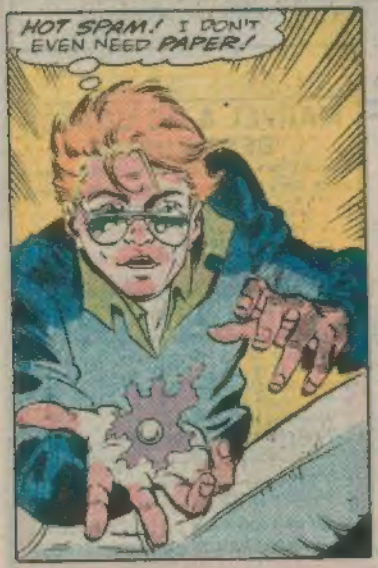
JERKY JEFF STARTS MAKIN' CRACKS ABOUT HOW I SMELL-- WHAAAT?

HOLY-- SPIT--!
I NEVER NOTICED MY GOBS BEING THAT POWERFUL!


THEY NEVER TOLD ME WHAT IT IS I DO THAT MAKES THINGS DISIN'EGRATE AN' CRUMBLE--

--BUT WHATEVER IT IS, I MUST HAVE IT BOTH INSIDE AN' OUT!
CRPTU!

LEMME TRY SOMETHIN'.
USEDTA BE PRETTY GOOD MAKIN' SPITBALLS BACK IN STUDY HALL.


HOT SPAM! I DON'T EVEN NEED PAPER!

PART GOB, PART ENERGY--
--LET'S SEE WHAT THE OL' SCUZZ-BALL CAN DO!
LIMI
55

BANG!
SPEED LIMIT 55
WHEE-OOO!
RAD CITY! NOW MY POWER IS BETTER'N ANY OF THEIRS!
WHAT'S SCUZZ CARRYING ON ABOUT?
BEATS ME.
I AIN'T EVEN GONNA TELL THE OTHERS 'BOUT IT. THAT'LL SHOW 'EM.
HEYA, SCUZZO, HOW'S IT HANGIN'?
YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO PLAY ALL BY YOURSELF, YOU KNOW. HECK, IF THE GIRLS CAN STAND A HUMAN MIXMASTER HANGIN' AROUND, THEY SURE CAN STAND A WALKIN' FRAGRANCE FACTORY.
'TWEEN YOU AND ME, PAL, WITHOUT YOU THERE, THE GIRLS BEGIN TO NOTICE MY B.O.--AND I'VE GOT NO ONE TO BLAME IT ON!
YOU CAME OUT HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT?
NO, I'M ABOUT TO SCOUT ME UP A PAYPHONE, MAKE A CALL TO MY MAMA. WANT ME TO BRING YOU ANYTHING BACK?
NAH--YEAH, HOW 'BOUT A CARTON OF CIGS. I'M ALMOST OUT.
WELL, SMOKIN' IS BAD FOR YOUR LUNGS, BUT...IT'S YOUR BODY NOT MINE.
YOU GOT IT.
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? TRYIN' TO ACT FRIENDLY TO ME?

NORTH MILWAUKEE...

BRRNNNG

VRRRRM

THE PHONE, MAMA. MAYBE IT'S JEFF!

HELLO? JEFFREY! DENNIS GUESSED IT WAS YOU! HOW ARE YOU, HONEY? THAT'S GOOD.

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I KNOW YOU CALL WHENEVER YOU CAN.

ASK JEFF WHEN HE'S GONNA COME HOME, MA!

YOU'RE SOUNDIN' REAL GOOD, MAMA. DENNIS AND MICHELE BEHAVIN' OR DO I HAFTA GIVE THEM THE WORD? WELL, THAT'S GOOD. SHE GOT AN "A" ON A MATH TEST? WHAT'S SHE TRYIN' TO DO--MAKE DENNIS AN' ME LOOK LIKE DUMMIES? HE GOT A WHAT IN GEOGRAPHY? LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY DUMMY!

OH, AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

NOW, DON'T LAUGH, JEFFREY, 'CAUSE I'M NOT JOKIN' WITH YOU. BUT I THINK I FOUND SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP WITH YOUR...YOUR MOVEMENT PROBLEM. UH-HUH. NO, HE'S AN EXORCIST. NOW LOOK, NONE OF THOSE DOCTORS KNEW HIS EARS FROM HIS ELBOWS WHEN IT CAME TO WHAT WAS WRONG WITH YOU. YOU SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT THOSE CLINIC DOCTORS, TOO.

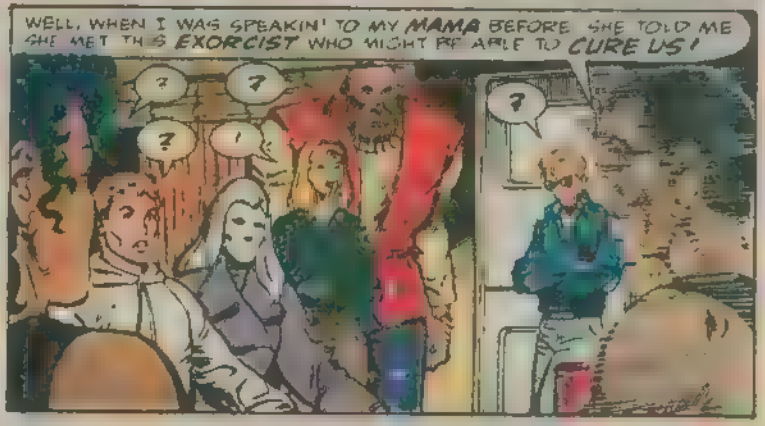
WELL, I WAS TALKING WITH THE REVEREND MIKE LAST SUNDAY, AND HE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS EPISCOPAL PRIEST HE KNEW WHO DID EXORCISMS. REVEREND MIKE FIGURED THAT IF YOUR PROBLEM ISN'T MEDICAL, THEN MAYBE IT'S SPIRITUAL. SO WHAT I DID WAS...

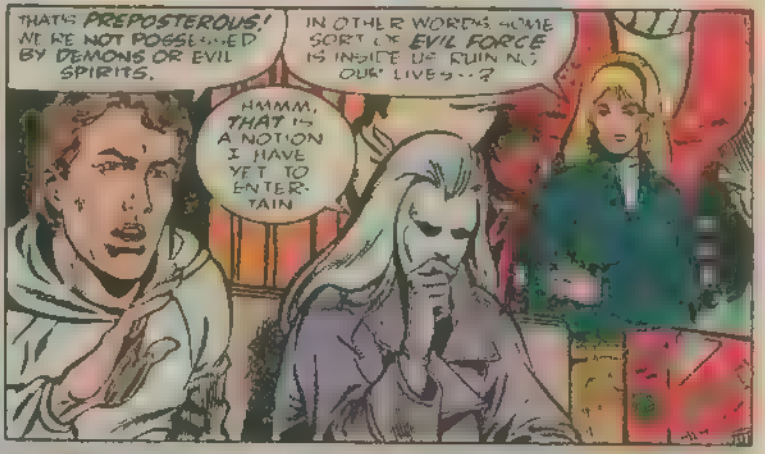
AN... EXORCIST...?

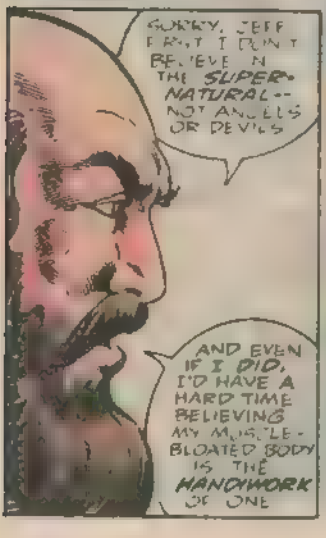
Mobil

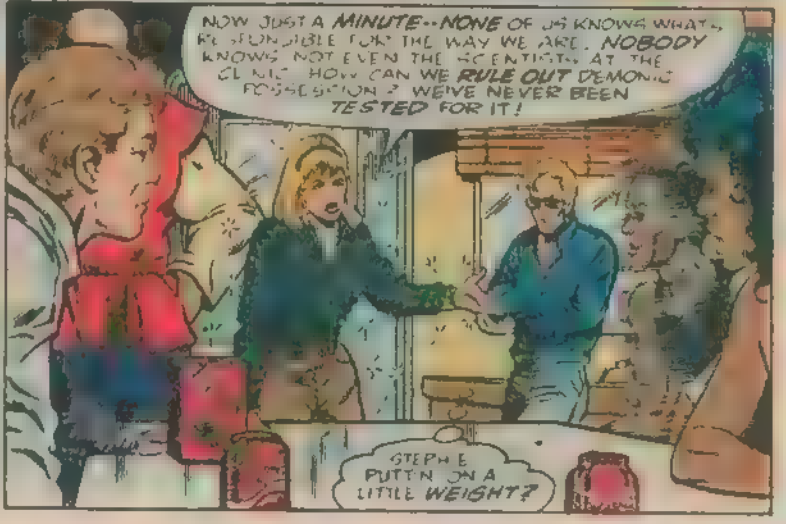
LATER
OKAY JEFF--SO WHAT'S SO ALL FIRED IMPORTANT THAT IT COULDN'T WAIT FOR OUR SUPPER STOP?
YEAH, AND WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING?
BETTER BE WORTH FORGETTIN' TO BRING MY CIGARETTES

SO HOW MANY OF YOU SAW THE MOVIE "THE EXORCIST"?
WHY WHAT?
I'M SERIOUS. THERE'S A POINT TO THIS
I WAS TOO YOUNG WHEN IT CAME OUT
I SAW IT PRETTY SILLY
MY DATE WAS FRIGHTENED BY IT

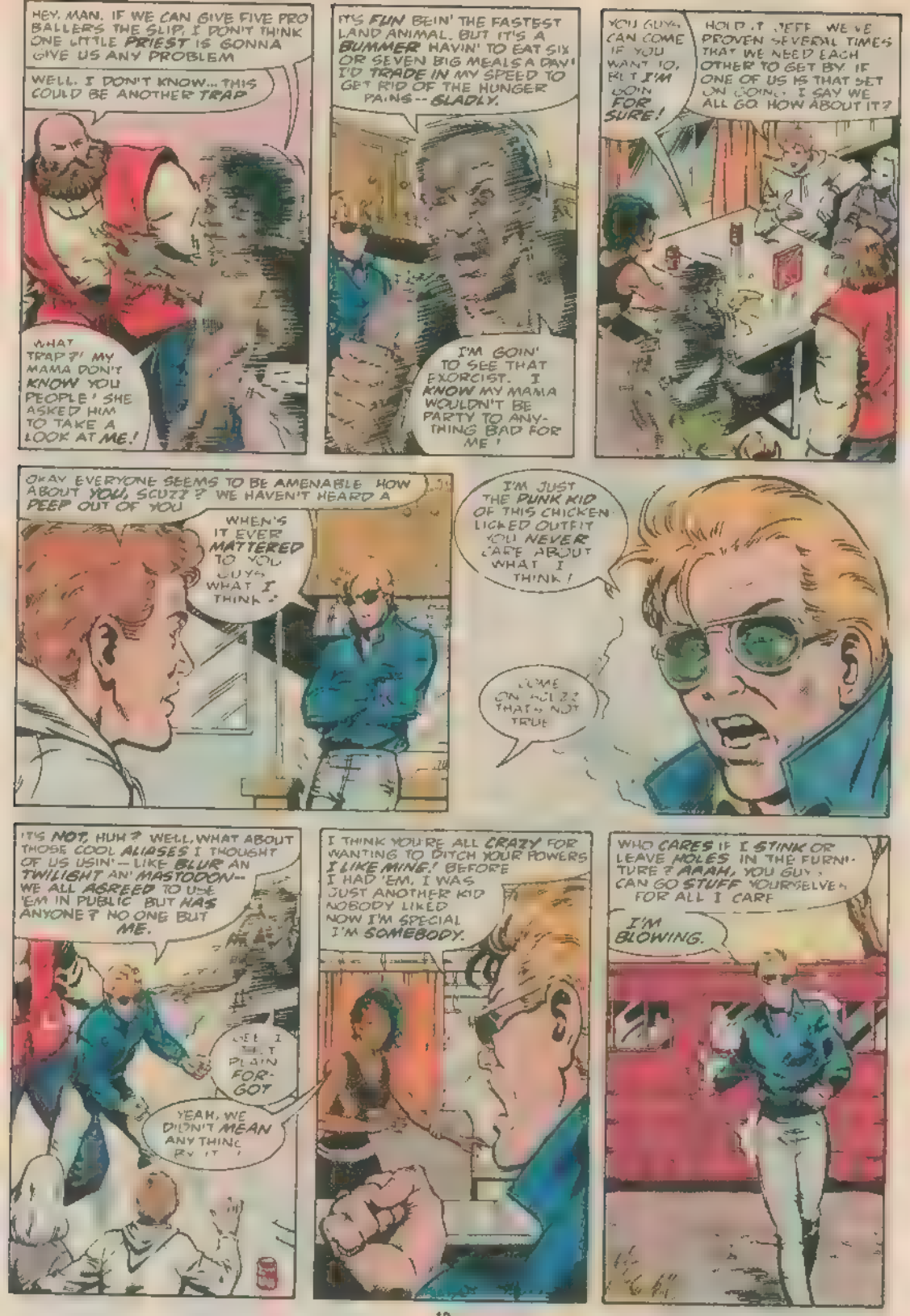

WELL, WHEN I WAS SPEAKIN' TO MY MAMA BEFORE SHE TOLD ME SHE MET THIS EXORCIST WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO CURE US!
?
?
?
?
?


THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS! WE'RE NOT POSSESSED BY DEMONS OR EVIL SPIRITS.
IN OTHER WORDS, SOME SORT OF EVIL FORCE IS INSIDE US RUINING OUR LIVES--?
HMMM, THAT IS A NOTION I HAVE YET TO ENTERTAIN


SORRY, JEFF BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE SUPERNATURAL--NOT ANGELS OR DEVILS
AND EVEN IF I DID, I'D HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING MY MUSCLE-BLOATED BODY IS THE HANDIWORK OF ONE


NOW JUST A MINUTE--NONE OF US KNOWS WHAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WAY WE ARE. NOBODY KNOWS. NOT EVEN THE SCIENTISTS AT THE CLINIC. HOW CAN WE RULE OUT DEMONIC POSSESSION? WE'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED FOR IT!
STEPHIE PUTTIN' ON A LITTLE WEIGHT?

COME ON, STEPH NOBODY BELIEVES IN THAT STUFF ANYMORE - NOT SINCE THE DARK AGES!
OKAY, MR SMARTY PANTS, THEN WHAT DO YOU THINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING US INTO FREAKS?
WELL, UH, IT MUST BE A NUMBER OF THINGS.
AFTER ALL, NONE OF US HAS THE SAME PARANORMALITY!
I THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT WEIRD ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCE BACK IN JULY -- THE WHITE EVENT.
THAT FLASH OF LIGHT IN SPACE? COULDN'T BE I WAS IN THE DANCE STUDIO WHEN IT HAPPENED. I MISSED THE WHOLE THING.
IF WE HAD ALL DEVELOPED OUR DIFFERENCES IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, I MIGHT ACCEPT THAT THEORY. BUT THEY ALL MANIFESTED THEMSELVES AT DIFFERENT TIMES.
STILL LENORE, THEY ALL CAME OUT AFTER THE WHITE EVENT -- NOT BEFORE.
...? THEY ALL CAME OUT AFTER RONALD REAGAN WAS RE-ELECTED. TOO. IS HE RESPONSIBLE, MAYBE?
I THINK WE'D ALL BE STUPID TO RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY WITHOUT INVESTIGATION. IT THROWS THEY FIRST IF SCIENCE CAN'T HELP US, WELL, MAYBE RELIGION CAN'T REALLY. SOME OF YOU ACT LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CURED!
NOW LOOK, STEPHIE. I WON'T RULE OUT AN EXORCIST ON THE GROUNDS. I DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM, OKAY? BUT I WILL RULE IT OUT BECAUSE I DON'T TRUST OUTSIDERS ANYMORE!
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE TRUSTED KICKERS, INC.! THEY BETRAYED US. TRIED TO TURN US OVER TO THE CLINIC!* AND THOSE WERE WELL KNOWN FOOTBALL PLAYERS. NOW YOU EXPECT ME TO TRUST SOME CRACKPOT PRIEST I PROBABLY NEVER EVEN HEARD OF?
*IN KICKERS #5, STILL ON SALE.


HEY, MAN. IF WE CAN GIVE FIVE PRO BALLERS THE SLIP, I DON'T THINK ONE LITTLE PRIEST IS GONNA GIVE US ANY PROBLEM
WELL, I DON'T KNOW... THIS COULD BE ANOTHER TRAP
WHAT TRAP?! MY MAMA DON'T KNOW YOU PEOPLE! SHE ASKED HIM TO TAKE A LOOK AT ME!
IT'S FUN BEIN' THE FASTEST LAND ANIMAL. BUT IT'S A BUMMER HAVIN' TO EAT SIX OR SEVEN BIG MEALS A DAY! I'D TRADE IN MY SPEED TO GET RID OF THE HUNGER PAINS -- GLADLY.
I'M GOIN' TO SEE THAT EXORCIST. I KNOW MY MAMA WOULDN'T BE PARTY TO ANYTHING BAD FOR ME!
YOU GUYS CAN COME IF YOU WANT TO, BUT I'M GOIN FOR SURE!
HOLD IT, JEFF. WE'VE PROVEN SEVERAL TIMES THAT WE NEED EACH OTHER TO GET BY. IF ONE OF US IS THAT SET ON GOING, I SAY WE ALL GO. HOW ABOUT IT?
OKAY EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE AMENABLE. HOW ABOUT YOU, SCUZZ? WE HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF YOU
WHEN'S IT EVER MATTERED TO YOU GUYS WHAT I THINK?
I'M JUST THE PUNK KID OF THIS CHICKEN LICKED OUTFIT YOU NEVER CARE ABOUT WHAT I THINK!
COME ON, SCUZZ THAT'S NOT TRUE
IT'S NOT, HUH? WELL, WHAT ABOUT THOSE COOL ALIASES I THOUGHT OF US USIN' -- LIKE BLUR AN TWILIGHT AN' MASTODON -- WE ALL AGREED TO USE 'EM IN PUBLIC BUT HAS ANYONE? NO ONE BUT ME.
SEE I JUST PLAIN FORGOT
YEAH, WE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT!
I THINK YOU'RE ALL CRAZY FOR WANTING TO DITCH YOUR POWERS I LIKE MINE! BEFORE I HAD 'EM, I WAS JUST ANOTHER KID NOBODY LIKED NOW I'M SPECIAL I'M SOMEBODY.
WHO CARES IF I STINK OR LEAVE HOLES IN THE FURNITURE? AAAH, YOU GUYS CAN GO STUFF YOURSELVES FOR ALL I CARE
I'M BLOWING.

HEY ! HEY SCUZZ--!

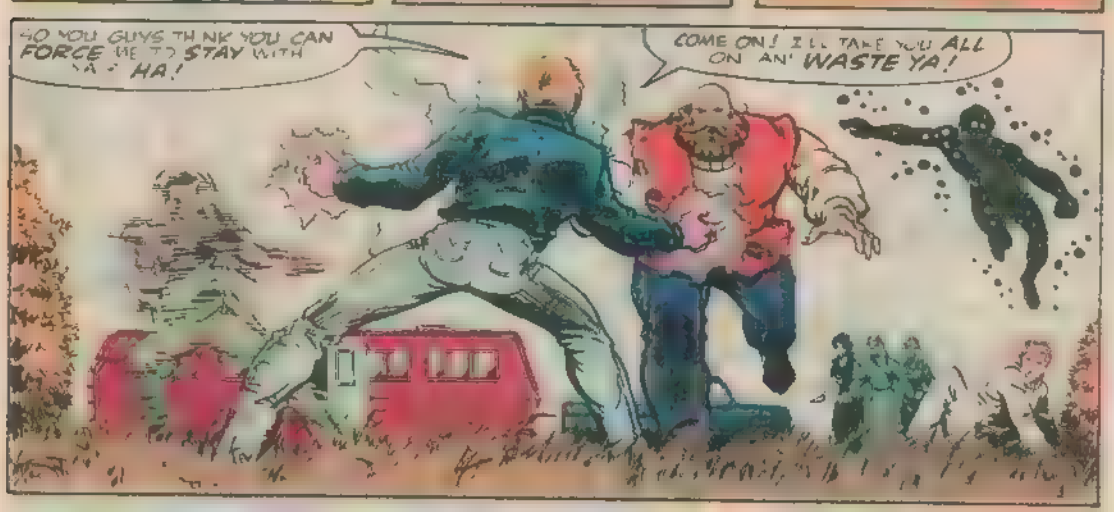
COME ON MAN DON'T SPLIT ON US JUST TAG ALONG YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE RIGAMAROLE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO... COME TO WATCH.
WE NEED YOU BUDDY IT WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU SCUZZIN UP THE JOINT PLEASE--?
BUG OFF!

WE CANNOT FORCE HIM TO COME WITH US
WANNA BET?
WE LET HIM WANDER OFF WITH HIS ATTITUDE, HE'S SURE TO GET IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
I'LL TRY TO TALK TO HIM !

OOK SCUZZ I'M REALLY SORRY IF I'VE MADE YOU FEEL YOUR OPINIONS OR IDEAS OR YOU CONTRIBUTIONS AREN'T VALUABLE TO THE GROUP. THEY REALLY ARE YOU'RE ONE OF US, SCUZZ WE LIKE YOU. AND--
HANDS OFF

JERK!
OOF!

OH NO--MY ANTI BODY CAME OUT!

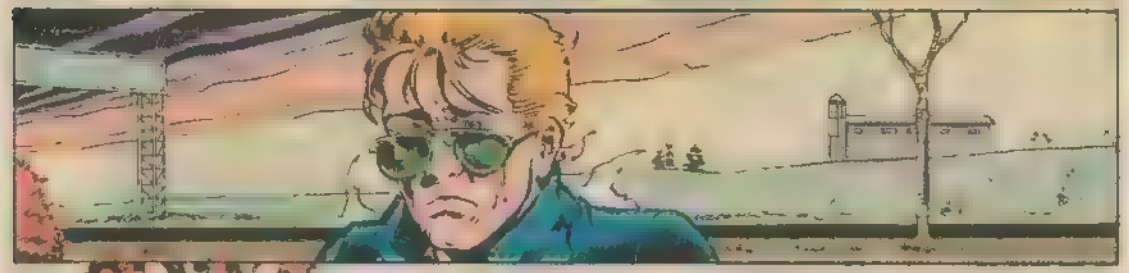

DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU CAN FORCE ME TO STAY WITH US? HA!
COME ON! I'LL TAKE YOU ALL ON AN' WASTE YA!

DUMB OX!
TAKE IT SLOW-- DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM! OOPS!
'KAY FATHEADS--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
?
YOW! WHAT'S HE TOSSIN'?
COME ON, CUZZ--ENOUGH OF THIS HORSEPLAY. LET'S JUST COOL DOWN AND TALK THINGS OUT
COOL DOWN? YOU WANT COOL, NOSEHAIR-
--YOU CAME TO THE WRONG DUDE!
SSSSSSSSSSSS
EEAAH!

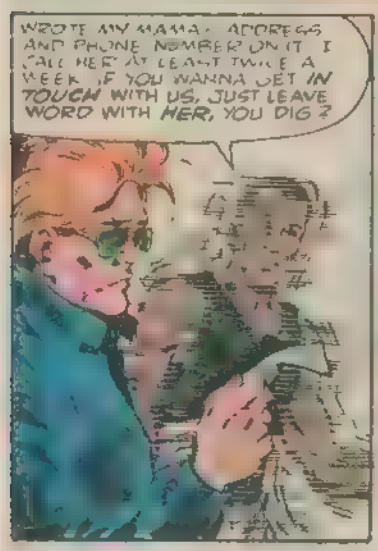
HEY LEGGO!
NOT FAR!
CARPTU!!
?
!!!
HAH! BLEW A HOLE THROUGH THAT SPOOK'S HEART!
LISTEN, KID--I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU SCALD ME AGAIN!
OH, YEAH?
BOYS! BOYS! STOP THIS AT ONCE!
IF HE WANTS TO GO SO BADLY, WE MUST RESPECT HIS DECISION!
MY ANT BODY--DID SCUZZ PERMANENTLY INJURE IT?
YES LET HIM GO IF HE WANTS TO HURT HIS ANTENNAE WOULD ONLY HURT THE REST OF OUR CHANCES TO BE CURED!
I DON'T NEED YOU TWO BUSYBODIES TO FIGHT MY FIGHTS FOR ME!
UH, LOOK, SCUZZ--I'M SORRY. WE DON'T MEAN TO START A FIGHT BUT THAT WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, AND THINK YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE RUNNING OFF
WELL YOU GUYS CAN STICK YOUR CONCERN WHERE THE WIND BLOWS!
FEEL BETTER?
YEAH
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, WE'LL LEAVE YOU RIGHT HERE
READ MY LIPS SCRAM!

JERKS ALL OF EM

VRRWWMMM

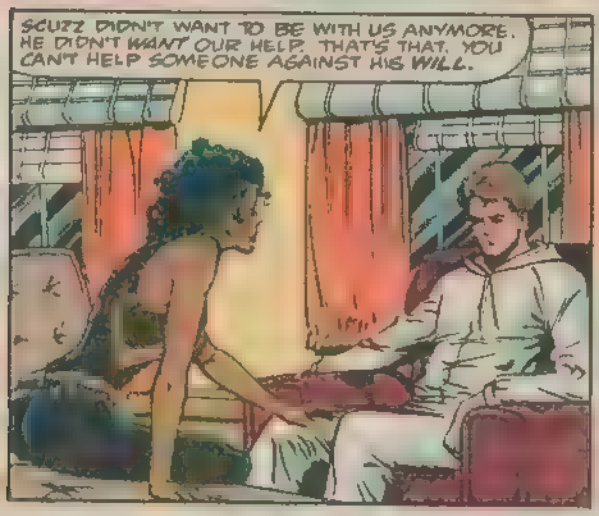


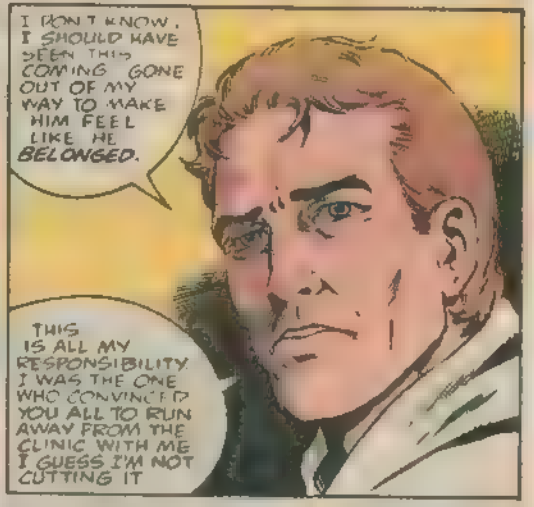
HEY SCUZZER GOT SOMETHIN' FOR YOU
WHA--! HEY DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!
WHAT IS IT?

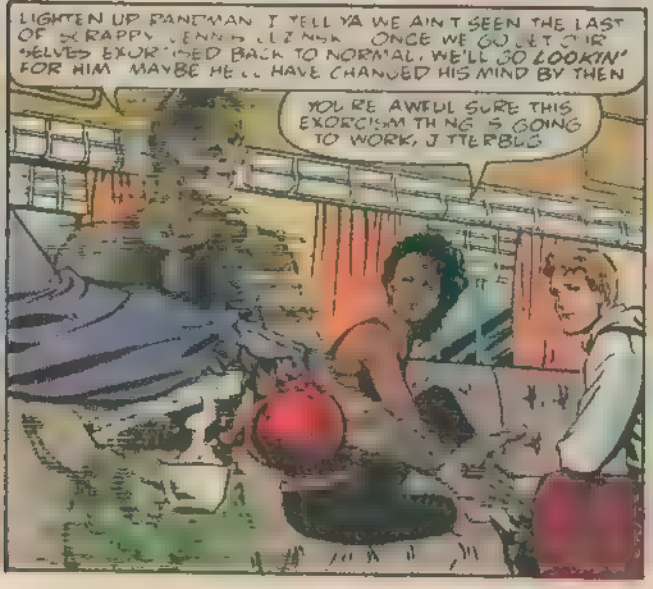

WROTE MY MAMA'S ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER ON IT. I CALL HER AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK. IF YOU WANNA GET IN TOUCH WITH US, JUST LEAVE WORD WITH HER, YOU DIG?

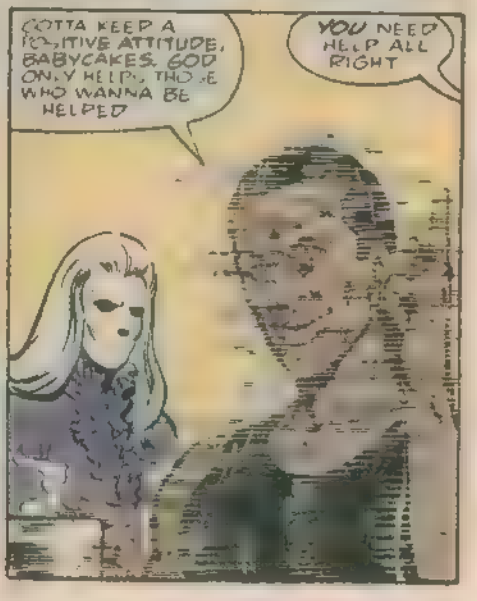
YOU TAKE CARE NOW, BRO. SEE YA AGAIN SOON!

I GAVE THE SQUIRT THE MESSAGE, DON'T WORRY, HE'LL BE IN TOUCH SOONER OR LATER.
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, RANDY -- YOU'RE NOT SCUZZ'S MOTHER. SIDES HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF - HE PROVED THAT.
LOOK, THE BUNCH OF US ARE TOGETHER BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE, 'CAUSE WE'RE TRYING TO HELP EACH OTHER... ADJUSTING AND ALL THAT.


SCUZZ DIDN'T WANT TO BE WITH US ANYMORE. HE DIDN'T WANT OUR HELP. THAT'S THAT. YOU CAN'T HELP SOMEONE AGAINST HIS WILL.


I DON'T KNOW. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING. GONE OUT OF MY WAY TO MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE HE BELONGED.
THIS IS ALL MY RESPONSIBILITY. I WAS THE ONE WHO CONVINCED YOU ALL TO RUN AWAY FROM THE CLINIC WITH ME. I GUESS I'M NOT CUTTING IT


LIGHTEN UP, RANDMAN. I TELL YA WE AIN'T SEEN THE LAST OF SCRAPPY JENNY LINSKY. ONCE WE GO GET OURSELVES EXORCISED BACK TO NORMAL, WE'LL GO LOOKIN' FOR HIM. MAYBE HE'LL HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND BY THEN.
YOU'RE AWFUL SURE THIS EXORCISM THING IS GOING TO WORK, JITTERBUG.


GOTTA KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, BABYCAKES. GOD ONLY HELPS THOSE WHO WANNA BE HELPED.
YOU NEED HELP ALL RIGHT.

THAT NIGHT

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, STEPH?

YES, DAVID. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT.

WELL, OKAY. WHAT COULD IT HURT?

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WANT EVERYONE TO JOIN IN AN EVENING PRAYER.

WHAAAAT?

WE SHOULD LET THE LORD KNOW WE'RE COMING, AND THAT HE'LL BE OUR ONLY CHANCE AT SALVATION FROM OUR HORRID PARANORMALITIES.

WHOA! I HAD NO IDEA HOW MUCH STEPHANIE HAD PINNED HER HOPES ON THIS EXORCISM THING!

OH LORD, HEAR THE HUMBLE PRAYERS OF SIX OF YOUR LOST CHILDREN. WE MAY NOT ALL BE THE MOST DEVOUT WORSHIPPERS WHO EVER LIVED-- I KNOW I WASN'T CHURCH A LOT OF TIME, MY HUSBAND LIKED TO SLEEP LATE ON SUNDAYS.

BUT STILL I ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF A CHRISTIAN AND ALWAYS TRIED TO BRING UP MY CHILDREN IN A CHRISTIAN WAY. I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT MY FRIENDS HERE, BUT I DO KNOW THAT THEY'RE ALL KIND, DECENT, PEOPLE, TOO.

WHAT HAPPENED TO US, THE WEIRD PARANORMAL THINGS WE DO, IS THEY'RE PUNISHMENT FOR SOMETHING WE'VE DONE. SURELY NONE OF US HAS BEEN THAT BAD THAT WE NEED TO SUFFER MORE THAN WE HAVE THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.

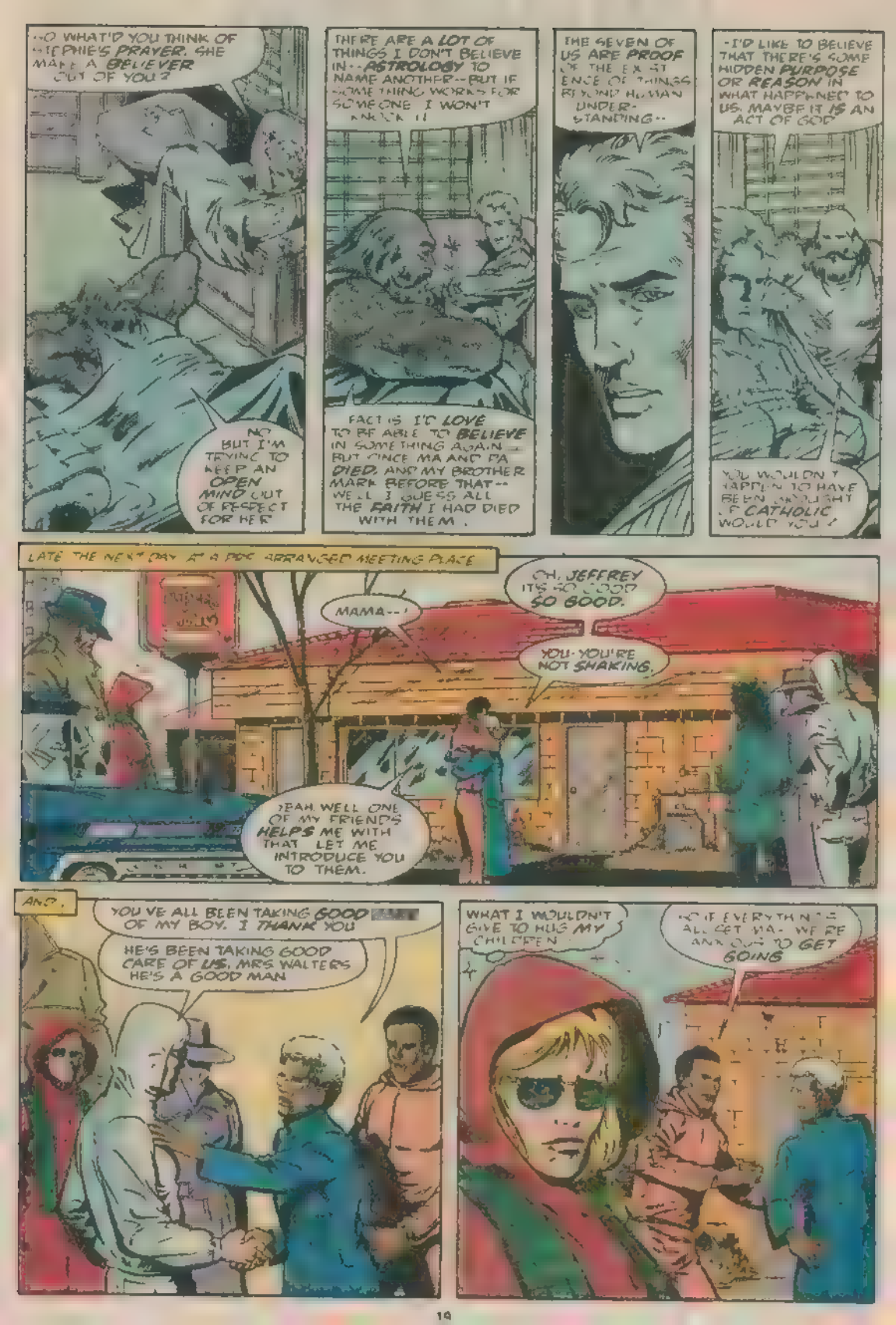
I WANT TO BE A GOOD MOTHER-- AND WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME IS PREVENTING THAT. MY FRIENDS TOO-- THEIR LIVES ARE BEING RUINED BY THEIR PARANORMALITIES.

SO IF IT IS SOME SORT OF EVIL THAT'S MAKING US THIS WAY, PLEASE GRANT US THE STRENGTH TO CAST IT OUT WHEN WE MEET WITH YOUR EARTHLY SERVANT. AMEN.

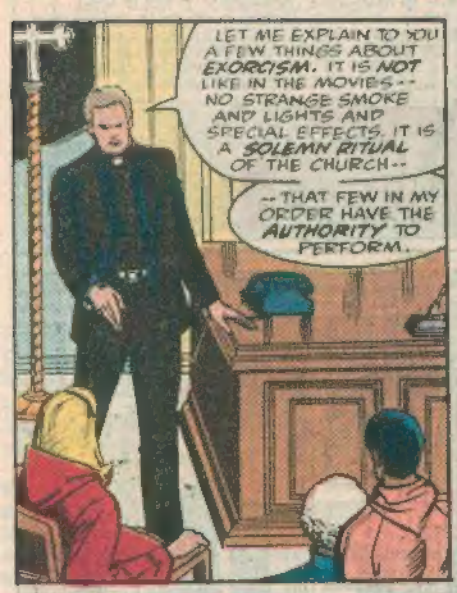
THAT WAS VERY ELOQUENT, STEPHANIE.

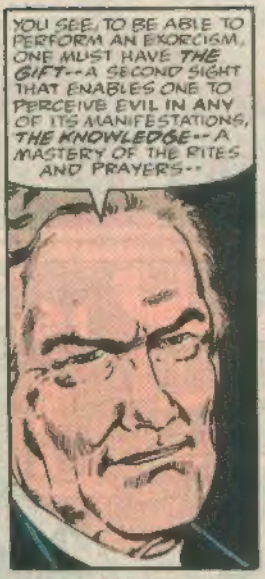
TH-THANKS.

OKAY, WE'D BETTER GET HIT THE SACK.

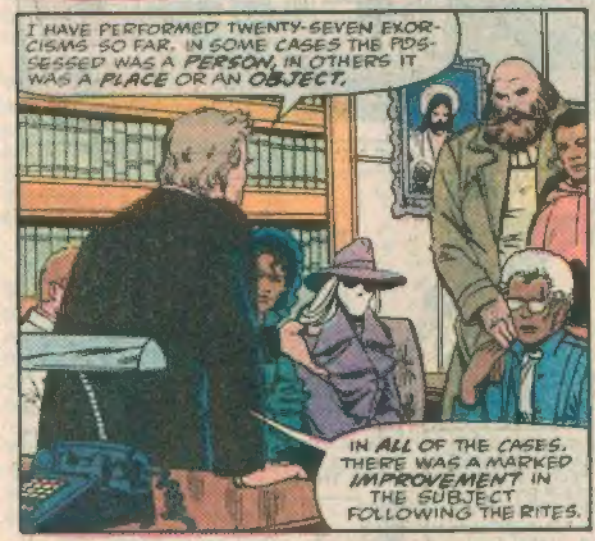

SO WHAT'D YOU THINK OF STEPHIE'S PRAYER, SHE MADE A BELIEVER OUT OF YOU?
NO, BUT I'M TRYING TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND OUT OF RESPECT FOR HER
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I DON'T BELIEVE IN--ASTROLOGY TO NAME ANOTHER--BUT IF SOMETHING WORKS FOR SOMEONE I WON'T KNOCK IT
FACT IS I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING AGAIN--BUT ONCE MA AND PA DIED, AND MY BROTHER MARK BEFORE THAT--WELL I GUESS ALL THE FAITH I HAD DIED WITH THEM.
THE SEVEN OF US ARE PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF THINGS BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING--
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE'S SOME HIDDEN PURPOSE OR REASON IN WHAT HAPPENED TO US. MAYBE IT IS AN ACT OF GOD
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP CATHOLIC, WOULD YOU?
LATE THE NEXT DAY AT A PDC ARRANGED MEETING PLACE
MAMA--!
OH, JEFFREY IT'S SO GOOD SO GOOD.
YOU-YOU'RE NOT SHAKING.
YEAH WELL ONE OF MY FRIENDS HELPS ME WITH THAT LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM.
AND.
YOU'VE ALL BEEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF MY BOY. I THANK YOU
HE'S BEEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF US, MRS WALTERS HE'S A GOOD MAN
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO HUG MY CHILDREN
SO IF EVERYTHING'S ALL GET MA- WE'RE ANXIOUS TO GET GOING

AN HOUR LATER
HELLO I AM REVEREND ARMAND KOEHN
THIS IS MY SON JEFFREY I TOLD YOU ABOUT. AND HE BROUGHT FIVE FRIENDS WITH HIM WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM OTHER UNEXPLAINED AILMENTS. I-I'M SORRY, I'VE FORGOTTEN MOST OF YOUR NAMES.
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, SIR SOME OF US WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T TRUST YOU, BUT .. BUT I'D JUST FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE.
VERY WELL. NOW WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR AFFLICTIONS.
I'VE GOT SOME SORT OF DARK SHADOWY MAN VING INSIDE ME --
- HE MOSTLY COMES OUT WHEN I GET AGITATED.
I MAKE THINGS STICK TO ME OR SLIPPERY.
I PUT ON 150 POUNDS OF MUSCLE WITHOUT EXERCISING.
AS MY MAMA PROBABLY TOLD YOU I CAN'T STAND STILL. SEE I'M START N' TO VIBRATE AGAIN!
THESE SPARKS FLYING AROUND ME -- MY BODY GIVES OFF SOME SORT OF EXCESS ENERGY.
MY BODY GIVES OFF SOME SORT OF TRANQUILIZING RAYS. MOST PEOPLE ARE HEAVILY SEDATED BY THEM-- JEFFREY HERE IS SIMPLY DECELERATED TO NORMAL SPEED FOR A TIME.
HAVE - HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING AS BIZARRE AS US? DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP US?
I HAVE SEEN BIZARRE THINGS IN MY TIME, BUT NOTHING QUITE LIKE THIS
THE IMPRESSION I AM GETTING FROM YOU PEOPLE, DOES NOT FEEL LIKE ANY MANNER OF POSSESSION I HAVE SO FAR ENCOUNTERED... I CANNOT PROMISE YOU I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.

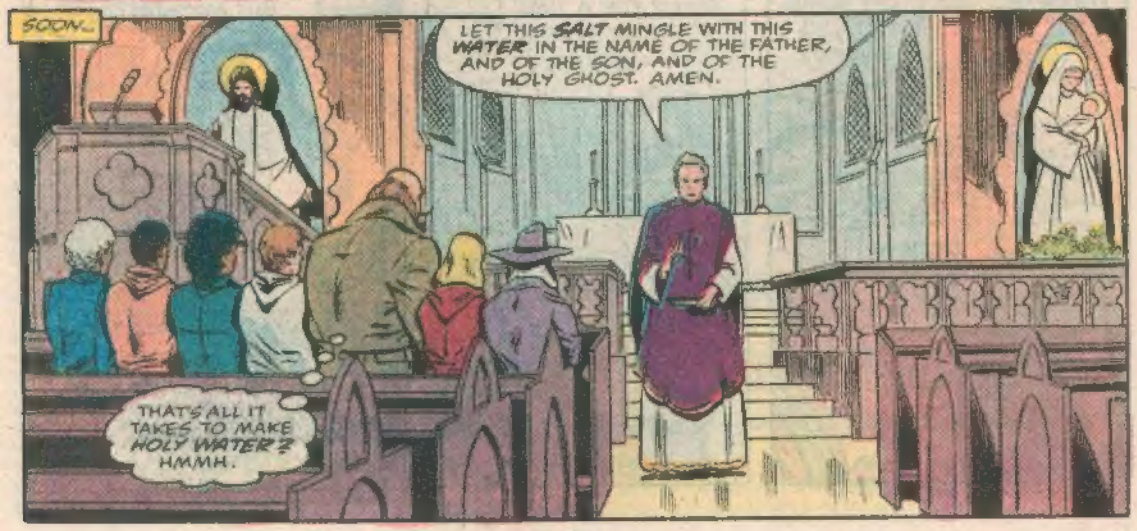

LET ME EXPLAIN TO YOU A FEW THINGS ABOUT EXORCISM. IT IS NOT LIKE IN THE MOVIES-- NO STRANGE SMOKE AND LIGHTS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS. IT IS A SOLEMN RITUAL OF THE CHURCH--
--THAT FEW IN MY ORDER HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PERFORM.


YOU SEE, TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM, ONE MUST HAVE THE GIFT--A SECOND SIGHT THAT ENABLES ONE TO PERCEIVE EVIL IN ANY OF ITS MANIFESTATIONS, THE KNOWLEDGE--A MASTERY OF THE RITES AND PRAYERS--

--AND THE WILL--THE STRENGTH TO RESIST THE EVIL ONCE IT HAS BEEN CAST OUT AND IS EAGER TO FIND A NEW HOST.
THE REV SPEAKS WITH SUCH CONVICTION... I'M ALMOST STARTING TO THINK THERE IS HOPE FOR US.


I HAVE PERFORMED TWENTY-SEVEN EXORCISMS SO FAR. IN SOME CASES THE POSSESSED WAS A PERSON, IN OTHERS IT WAS A PLACE OR AN OBJECT.
IN ALL OF THE CASES, THERE WAS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE SUBJECT FOLLOWING THE RITES.

ALTHOUGH I CONFESS I CANNOT POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THAT WHICH RESIDES WITHIN THE SIX OF YOU AS EVIL--I AM WILLING TO PERFORM THE RITES IN THE EVENT THAT IT IS.
EXCUSE ME, SIR. BUT DOES IT MATTER IF WE BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO?
NO, MY SON. IT ONLY MATTERS THAT I DO.


SOON...
LET THIS SALT MINGLE WITH THIS WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. AMEN.
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO MAKE HOLY WATER? HMMH.

O GOD, THE AUTHOR OF BLESSING AND THE SOURCE OF SALVATION, WE EARNESTLY PRAY AND BESEECH YOU TO SHED THE LIGHT OF YOUR GRACE UPON YOUR STRICKEN CHILDREN. AMEN.
MAY THE HOLY WATER CLEANSE THESE VESSELS OF YOUR DIVINE WILL OF THE IMPURITIES WHICH HAVE ENTERED THEIR BODIES. AMEN.

GRANT THAT BY THE POWER ENTRUSTED IN THY UNWORTHY SERVANT THAT THESE SIX BE-LEAGUERED SOULS, WHO ARE TRULY DESIROUS OF YOUR MERCY, BE GIVEN THE STRENGTH TO RESIST THE MARK OF EVIL WITH WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN STAINED. AMEN.

OH, MAN--WHAT IF THIS WORKS? WHAT IF I DO FEEL MY BODY START SHEDDING ALL THIS BULK--? WILL THAT MAKE A BELIEVER OUT OF ME--?
O LORD, IN WHOM ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE, LET US FEEL THE STRENGTH OF THY AUTHORITY OVER EVIL. AMEN.

I EXORCISE THEE, O CREATURES OF DARK-NESS! BEGONE, DEMONS--THOU ART UNWELCOME HERE! FREE THIS FLESH OF THY CURSED MIGHT--
I-I FEEL SOMETHING--!

--AND RETURN NO MORE TO PLAGUE--
OH, NO--!

COME BACK HERE, YOU STUPID--!
I HAVE NEVER SEEN A DEMON SO--

GET THEE BEHIND ME--

I... I AM HAVING VISIONS--!

SORRY, FATHER, THAT'S MY SHADOW-MAN. WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH PEOPLE, HE LEAVES THEM WITH HIS MEMORIES SOMEHOW. IT'S... RATHER DISORIENTING.

STOP THAT INFERNAL THING, RANDY! IT'S RUINING THE CEREMONY! IT'LL DESTROY OUR CHANCES TO BE SAVED!

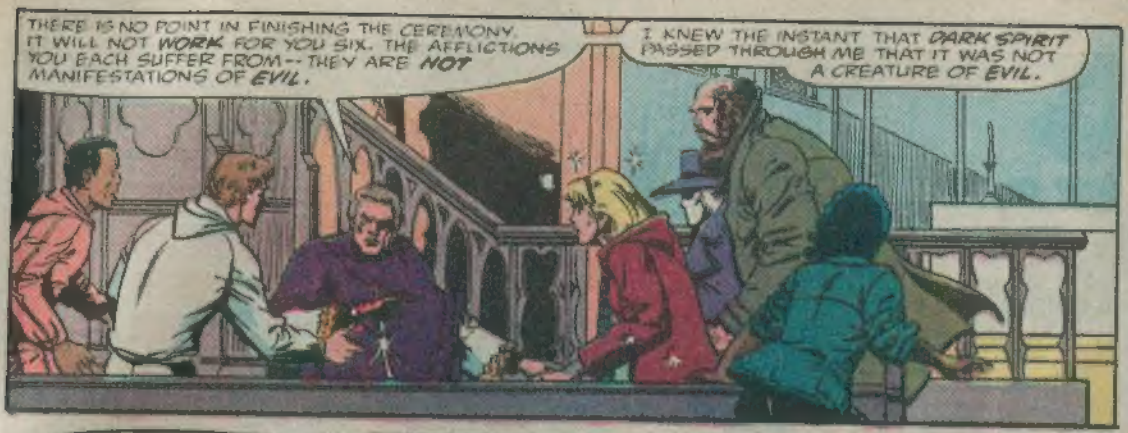
I AM TRYING, TO STEPHANIE. BUT IT REALLY DOES HAVE A MIND OF ITS OWN, AND I CAN'T--

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF THAT--THAT THING RUINS THIS FOR ME!

SIGHTS... EXPERIENCES... SENSATIONS I'VE NEVER DREAMED OF--FORGIVE ME, MY CHILDREN... I MUST STOP, MAKE SENSE OF THIS...

FATHER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK PALE--LET ME SHARE SOME OF MY--MY... ENERGY... WITH...

NO! I MEAN... NO, I AM RECOVERED...


THERE IS NO POINT IN FINISHING THE CEREMONY. IT WILL NOT WORK FOR YOU SIX. THE AFFLICTIONS YOU EACH SUFFER FROM -- THEY ARE NOT MANIFESTATIONS OF EVIL.
I KNEW THE INSTANT THAT DARK SPIRIT PASSED THROUGH ME THAT IT WAS NOT A CREATURE OF EVIL.

NONE OF YOU IS TRULY POSSESSED. EXORCISM CANNOT HELP YOU. I FEAR I DO NOT KNOW WHAT... ON EARTH... CAN.
I AM SORRY.
I WILL PRAY FOR YOU.

WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW THERE AREN'T DEMONS INSIDE US. THAT'S SOMETHING.
I REALLY AM SORRY IF MY UH, GHOST, GAVE YOU A SCARE, FATHER.

IF YOU CHILDREN ARE EVER IN NEED OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE, I WILL BE HERE FOR YOU.
THANKS.

GOD GRANT YOU THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS YOU CANNOT CHANGE... THE COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS YOU CAN CHANGE... AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO.
END